

What is claimed is:

1. A guard for a digit of a hand, comprising:

a body;

a protective portion of the body configured to be penetration resistant; and

a less protective portion of the body adjacent to the protective portion;

wherein the protective portion is of a different color than the less protective portion.

2. The guard of claim 1, wherein a color of the protective portion is visually distinct from a color of the less protective portion.

3. The guard of claim 1, wherein an end of the body is shaped so that a portion of a pad of the digit remains uncovered by the body during use in order for the digit to retain the ability to register tactile sensations.

4. The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion comprises poly-para-phenylene terephthalamide.

5. The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

6. The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion comprises an elastomeric material.

7. The guard of claim 1, wherein the less protective portion is adapted to provide at least four times the penetration resistance to a 27-gauge needle during use than a double layer of latex gloves, each glove having a thickness between about 0.05 millimeters and 0.2 millimeters.

8. The guard of claim 1, wherein a portion of the body is shaped to avoid covering a portion of a medial joint to allow the digit the ability to flex during use.

5 9. The guard of claim 1, wherein the body covers a substantial portion of a medial joint of the digit, and wherein the protective section and the less protective section are flexible to allow the digit to flex during use.

10 10. The guard of claim 1, further comprising a lip at an end of the body, the lip configured to provide an indicator of an insertion depth of the body on the digit.

11. The guard of claim 1, wherein the color of the protective portion is visible through a covering worn over the body.

15 12. The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion is substantially transparent.

13. The guard of claim 1, wherein the less protective portion is substantially transparent.

20 14. The guard of claim 1, wherein the body comprises a distal portion.

15. The guard of claim 14, wherein the distal portion includes the protective portion.

25 16. The guard of claim 14, wherein the distal portion is configured to contact a distal portion of the digit during use.

17. The guard of claim 1, further comprising a bead of material formed between the protective portion and the less protective portion.

30 18. The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion has a longer length than a length of the less protective portion.

19. The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion has an angular range between about  $\pi/2$  radians and about  $7\pi/4$  radians.

20. The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion has an angular range of about  $5\pi/4$  radians.

21. A guard for a digit of a hand, comprising:

a body having an opening in an end configured to allow a portion of a pad of the digit to remain uncovered by the guard during use;

wherein the body comprises a protective portion having a puncture resistance to a 20-gauge needle of at least about 2 newtons; and

wherein a color of the protective portion contrasts with a color of skin of the digit.

22. The guard of claim 21, further comprising a less protective portion, the less protective portion configured to hold the guard on the digit.

23. The guard of claim 22, further comprising a bead of material between the protective portion and the less protective portion.

24. The guard of claim 21, further comprising a less protective portion, the less protective portion having a color visually distinct from the color of the protective portion.

25. The guard of claim 21, further comprising a lip at an end of the body, the lip configured to provide an indicator of an insertion depth of the body on the digit.

26. The guard of claim 21, wherein the color of the protective portion is visible through a covering worn over the body.

27. A method of producing a protective guard for a digit of a hand, comprising: forming a protective portion that covers a portion of the digit; and

coloring the protective portion so that the protective portion contrasts with a color of the digit.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

5 forming a less protective portion; and  
bonding the protective portion and the less protective portion together to form a body positionable on the digit.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising forming an indentation in an end of  
10 the body that allows a portion of a pad of the digit to remain uncovered during use.

30. The method of claim 28, further comprising forming an indentation in an end of the body that permits bending of a medial joint of the digit.

15 31. The method of claim 27, further comprising forming a lip at an end of the protective section, the lip configured to provide an indication of insertion depth of the protective portion on the digit.

32. A method of protecting a digit from penetration during a surgical procedure,  
20 comprising:  
covering a portion of the digit with a protective guard; and  
positioning a protective portion over part of a back portion of the digit, wherein the protective portion comprises a color that is visibly distinct from a color of the digit.

25 33. The method of claim 21, wherein the protective guard includes a less protective portion, the less protective portion comprising a color that is visibly distinct from the color of the protective portion.

30 34. The method of claim 22, further comprising rotating the protective guard during use to change a position of the protective portion of the protective guard to a different portion of the digit.

35. A guard for a digit of a hand, comprising:  
a body;  
a protective portion of the body configured to be penetration resistant; and  
a less protective portion of the body adjacent to the protective portion.

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